

Appl. No. 09/022,132  
Amendment and/or Response  
Reply to Office action of 24 August 2004

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are pending in the application; claims 15-20 are newly added.

The Office action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection with respect to amended claims 1, 6, and 10.

The applicant specifically teaches that the example display of FIG. 2 includes a predefined field (72) that is configured to contain an image of the player who is currently in the lead, at page 4, lines 11-12.

Because the applicant explicitly teaches a display of the current high scoring player in a field that is configured to contain an image of the currently leading player, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

The Office action rejects:

claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sitrick (USP 4,521,014) and Breslow et al. (USP 4,710,873, hereinafter Breslow); and

claims 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sitrick, Breslow, and Weiss (USP 5,821,983) or Hogan et al. (USP 5,657,246, hereinafter Hogan).

The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Each of the independent claims 1, 6, and 10, include the display of a currently highest scoring player in a predefined field that is associated with the gaming environment and configured to contain an image of the currently highest scoring player during the display of the gaming environment.

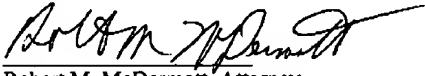
Neither Sitrick, nor Breslow, nor Weiss, nor Hogan, individually or collectively, teach or suggest defining a field that is configured to contain an image of the currently highest scoring player during the display of the gaming environment, and therefore the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sitrick and Breslow, or over Sitrick, Breslow and Weiss or Hogan.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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